3 November 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Henry Rowen, Chairman

National Intelligence Council

FROM

: National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT

Suggestions for "Alternative Possibility" Analysis Topics

1. As stated at the meeting, I think Charles Waterman's idea first rate. My own experience in publishing 14 such analyses (1980-81) also testifies to the fact that these can indeed be written in four printed pages as Dick Lehman suggested. Four examples are attached in case you want to use them.

2. Specific possible topic suggestions in my region include the following pessimistic and optimistic themes:

-- Implications for Mexico of a communist Central America by 1983 (currently scheduled as an NIE for 1982)

-- Extreme left victory in El Salvador in 1982--Implications for the Region

-- Rightist disruption of the constitutional transition in Brazil and its possible implications

-- Successful democratic liberation of Nicaragua in 1982; implications for the region and the Cuban export of subversion

Growth within Cuba of a "Solidarity type" movement for peaceful and gradual liberalization: probabilities and impact

Explusion of Cuba from Angola or Mozambique: Impact on its export of subversion

3. In addition, I am attaching an extract from my memo for Mr. Casey of 15 September 1981 which illustrates a type of impact analysis we might consider doing collegially on a quarterly basis for a limited number of

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possible, negative international events which could be caused by the success of the political-paramilitary warfare process. The illustration only highlighted possible effects on oil prices but I would suggest the following dimensions of impact:

Destabilization

Possible Impact in Terms of a Range

Case

Total Oil Prices

Refugee Costs

Defense Costs

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A. North Yemen

B. Oman C. Etc.

Constantine Menges National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

Attachments

Alternative emphasis forecasts on:

- 1) Central America/Mexico (4/80)
- 2) Neutralism in Germany (7/80)
- 3) Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia (6/80) 4) Brazil Difficult Years (11/80)